Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives Minority Leader

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Representative Ethan Berkowitz District 13

News from Anchorage

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Greetings from Anchorage, where the Governor and BP have presented Alaskans with a charter spelling out the terms by which the BP-ARCO merger may go forward. It comes as no surprise that reactions are mixed. If you wish to read the charter spelling out the terms, it is available on the web at:

http://www.gov.state.ak.us/charter.html

As promised, the Governor is holding public hearings and accepting public input before finalizing the deal. The Anchorage meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 16 at the Anchorage Museum of History & Art from 6 to 9 p.m. You may also e-mail your comments to:

attorney_general@law.state.ak.us

Please let me know what you think as well.

In our corner of the state, Anchorage International Airport has established a Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) to work more closely with neighborhoods affected by airport development. One of the lessons AIA relearned from their latest wetlands permit application was the need for improved communication between the airport and its neighbors. The CAC will work to ensure airport growth considers the impacts on surrounding community and their meetings are open to the public.

Members of the CAC include: Pat Redmond, Robert Auth, Blythe Marston, and Darrell Peterson from the airport neighborhoods; Jake Metcalfe, Jane Anvik, and Sam Cotton of the community at large; Peg Tileston and Dirk Sisson of the environmental and outdoor recreation community; Karen Rogina and Yoshi Ogawa of the visitor industry; Ernie Hall and Wilson Hughes from the business community; and Terry Smith and Dave Haugen of the aviation and logistics industry. If you have questions or concerns about airport activities, these folks can help.

Hard as it is to believe, session is coming soon. Offering your thoughts on issues important to you, and letting me know early, will help me do a better job. I look forward to hearing from you.

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